

# Memorandum



**Date:** August 28, 2013

**To:** Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

**From:** Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos A. Gimenez", written over the printed name.

**Subject:** Phase-Out of Oversize Vehicle Vouchers at TRCs

---

The Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWM) has identified a procedure currently utilized at its Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers (TRCs) that allows service area customers free access to County landfills if they arrive at the TRC with an oversize vehicle that is in need of revision. This procedure has been found to be vulnerable to fraud and abuse and is part of an on-going Miami-Dade Police Department investigation related to the use of landscaper coupons at the TRCs.

The attached memorandum describes the Oversize Vehicle Voucher (OVV) procedure and recommends phasing-out this procedure by the end of this fiscal year (September 30, 2013). This change will affect a very limited number of customers and a cost savings related to misuse of the procedure will result. Affected customers will be provided alternatives that conform to the current suite of services authorized by the Board of County Commissioners in Implementing Order 4-68, Schedule of All Service Levels and Fees for Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Services.

The PWWM will inform TRC users of this change by posting flyers and adjusting signage as appropriate at the TRCs and posting a message on the department's webpage in advance of the fiscal year end implementation date. If you have any questions, please contact PWWM Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson at 305-514-6618.

## Attachment

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor  
J. D. Patterson, Jr., Director, Miami-Dade Police Department  
Kathleen Woods-Richardson, Director, Public Works and Waste Management

# Memorandum



**Date:** August 15, 2013

**To:** Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez, Mayor  
Office of the Mayor

**Through:** Alina T. Hudak  
Deputy Mayor

**From:** Kathleen Woods-Richardson, Director  
Public Works and Waste Management Department

**Subject:** Phase-Out of Oversize Vehicle Vouchers at TRCs

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen Woods-Richardson", written over the printed name in the "From:" field.

The Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWM) operates 13 Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers (TRCs) for service area residents to drop off household generated bulky waste items. Due to the limited space for vehicles to maneuver within the TRCs and to ensure public safety, the sizes and types of vehicles permitted to use the TRCs is restricted by Chapter 15 of the Miami-Dade County Code (Code). For many years the PWWM has maintained a practice of issuing vouchers for free landfill disposal to service area customers that arrive at a TRC with an oversize vehicle (Residents with Oversize Vehicles voucher attached). The customer is instructed to present the voucher to the scale operator and is permitted access to the landfill without charge. Approximately 2 to 3 customers take advantage of this procedure each day, costing the PWWM approximately \$35,000+ annually.

The oversize vehicle voucher (OVV) procedure at the TRCs is highly vulnerable to fraud and abuse and is part of an ongoing investigation by the Miami-Dade Police Department (MDPD) relating to landscaper coupons; another paper instrument with cash value. While researching OVV activity in anticipation of potential findings by MDPD, the PWWM uncovered multiple suspicious transactions that are likely fraudulent and passed this information on to MDPD.

PWWM identified OVV vulnerabilities are as follows:

- The OVV is issued at a TRC. The customer then transports the waste material to a designated landfill. This provides an opportunity for the customer to add additional material to the load that may not be generated from their household or may be of a type or quantity not accepted at the TRCs (e.g. commercially generated waste, waste from households outside the service area, or construction and demolition debris beyond the one cubic yard limit). The landfill scale operator would have no way of knowing the unacceptable material had been added and this additional cost will be passed on to the PWWM waste collection operation and ultimately to the rate payers through higher waste fees.
- The OVV has potential value and could be sold for cash, therefore these instruments should be tightly controlled (e.g. numbered in sequence, secured, audited, etc.), which has not been our past practice.

Due to the potential for misuse and the administrative costs associated with maintaining landscaper coupons, the PWWM is taking proactive steps to replace the landscaper coupons with a swipe card system. **For the same reasons, the PWWM recommends that the OVV procedure be phased-out, ending on September 30, 2013.** The OVV procedure is not a Code requirement and is not included in Implementing Order 4-68, Schedule of All Service Levels and Fees for Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Services. Relatively few customers will be affected and a cost savings related to misuse of the procedure will result. Customers that previously took advantage of the OVV procedure will have the option of scheduling a bulky waste pick-up (Two (2) pick-ups of 25 cubic yards each annually) or using a vehicle to access the TRCs that meets the Code Requirements (i.e. a **pick-up truck** having a GVW of less than 15,000 pounds, a **van** with a GVW of less than 11,000 pounds or a **trailer** with a bed not larger than 6 feet high, 6 feet wide, 10 feet long, which does not exceed 6 cubic yards carrying capacity).

The PWWM will inform TRC users of this change by posting flyers and adjusting signage as appropriate at the TRCs and posting a message on the department's webpage in advance of the fiscal year end implementation date.

Attachment - Sample OVV

C: J.D. Patterson, Director, Miami-Dade Police Department  
Paul Mauriello, Assistant Director, Waste Operations

## RESIDENTS WITH OVERSIZE VEHICLES

Residents with large trucks with a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) over 9,000 pounds or trailers larger than 10 ft. long by 6 ft. wide by 6 ft. high are not provided access to the Neighborhood Trash and Recycling Centers. You will be directed to the closest Department of Solid Waste Management disposal facility for free disposal of your household trash items. Please provide the yellow copy of this form to the scale house operator at the disposal site.

Resident directed to (check one):

- ☐ North Dade Landfill  
21500 N.W. 47 Avenue  
305-620-5114 (office) or 305-620-4935 (scale house)
- ☐ South Dade Landfill  
24000 S.W. 97 Avenue  
305-258-2830 (office) or 305-258-2713 (scale house)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Resident's Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make/Model of Vehicle: \_\_\_\_\_ Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer Tag Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Waste (check one): ☐ Trash ☐ Yard Trash ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

DSWM Employee Making Referral: \_\_\_\_\_ T & R Center Referred From: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**—The Waste Supervisor/Attendant must 1) Complete all information on the oversize vehicle form. 2) Direct the resident to the nearest disposal site for free disposal. 3) Provide the resident with the yellow copy of the form. The resident will need to present the yellow copy to scale house operator at the disposal site.



**DISTRIBUTION:** White—Trash Division Yellow—Scale House Operator

403.01-24 1/07